

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 28, 33 and 40-48 without prejudice and amend Claims 21, 29, 31 and 34 as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) A functional oral preparation comprising at least one ingredient present in an average molecular weight range between 20,000 and 100,000 and selected from the group consisting of water-soluble sericin, its hydrolyzed product and mixtures thereof, in an effective amount to prevent colon cancer.

22. (Previously presented) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount resistant to digestion by digestive enzymes, to control body weight, to prevent and treat constipation, and accelerate intestinal absorption of calcium and other ingested minerals.

23.(Previously presented) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount for uniting ingested minerals to thereby accelerate intestinal absorption of the same.

24.(Previously presented) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount for inhibiting occurrence of precancerous lesions in the colon.

25.(Previously presented) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said

at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount to activate digestive functions of stomach and intestines while inhibiting gastric and intestinal absorption of excess water, cholesterol and fat, and accelerate intestinal absorption of minerals such as calcium, iron, magnesium and zinc.

26.(Previously presented) The preparation of claim 21, in the form of a low-digestible food/drink additive.

27.(Previously presented) The preparation of claim 21, in the form of a health supplement.

28. (Canceled)

29.(Currently amended) The preparation of claim 28 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount to provide a daily dosage of 1 mg. to 1 g. per kg. body weight.

30. (Previously presented) The preparation of claim 21, wherein the sericin is naturally derived from silkworm cocoons or raw silk.

31. (Currently amended) A functional oral preparation comprising a mineral mix and at least one ingredient present in an average molecular weight range between 20,000 and 100,000 and selected from the group consisting of water-soluble sericin, its hydrolyzed product and mixtures thereof and a mineral mix.

32. (Previously presented) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said mineral mix includes calcium, iron, magnesium, zinc, manganese, copper, chromium, selenium, molybdenum, cobalt, nickel, arsenic, iodine, boron, bromine,

fluorine, lead, lithium, silicon, vanadium and cadmium.

33.(Cancelled)

34.(Currently amended) The preparation of claim 31 33, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in an effective amount to provide a daily dosage of 1 mg. to 1 g. per kg. body weight.

35. (Previously presented) The preparation of claim 31, additionally comprising casein, L-cystine, corn oil, vitamin mix, choline tartrate, cellulose, saccharose and corn starch.

36. (Previously presented) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in an effective amount to prevent colon cancer including inhibiting occurrence of precancerous lesions in the colon, be resistant to digestion by digestive enzymes, control body weight including inhibiting intestinal absorption of excess water, cholesterol and fat, prevent and treat constipation, and accelerate intestinal absorption of calcium and other minerals including uniting the ingested minerals to increase the intestinal absorption.

37.(Previously presented) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said sericin is naturally derived from silkworm cocoons or raw silk.

38.(Previously presented) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in an effective amount to be resistant to digestion by pepsin and pancreatin as opposed to casein, increase fecal weight as opposed to casein, alleviate constipation as opposed to casein, control body weight and reduce fat accumulation as opposed to casein, increase absorption of calcium, magnesium, iron, and zinc as opposed to casein, inhibit precancerous lesions of the

colon as opposed to casein, and reduce colon tumor incidence and count as opposed to casein.

39.(Previously presented) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in an effective amount to be resistant to digestion by pepsin and pancreatin as opposed to casein, increase fecal weight as opposed to casein, alleviate constipation as opposed to casein, control body weight and reduce fat accumulation as opposed to casein, increase absorption of calcium, magnesium, iron, and zinc as opposed to casein, inhibit precancerous lesions of the colon as opposed to casein, and reduce colon tumor incidence and count as opposed to casein.

Claims 40-48 (Canceled).